UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF \$2,022,000 ADDITIONAL JOB-CREATING ACCELERATED PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

Approval of \$2,022,000 in Accelerated Public Works projects was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. These funds, to be invested in a variety of forest improvements in Alabama, California, Florida, and Kentucky, will provide approximately 170 man-years of on-site employment, Secretary Udall explained, adding that "for each man-year of work it creates directly, the APW program develops approximately an equivalent amount indirectly, among the firms which supply equipment and materials to each project."

Today's announcement includes betterments to public lands, national parks, national monuments, and wildlife refuges. Most of the work will begin within 30 days. The projects will improve facilities used by millions of hikers, picnickers, and campers; help promote tourism; and conserve the Nation's timber and water resources, in addition to providing much-needed employment.

Thus far, the Department of the Interior has received a total allocation of \$63 million in APW funds from the Area Redevelopment Administration, which has overall charge of the program. Less than \$10 million of this amount remains to be committed to specific projects.

Nineteen projects are included in today's announcement. They will carry forward the activities of three bureaus of the Department of the Interior. The largest share of the work--10 projects, valued at \$1,017,000--will be performed in areas administered by the National Park Service. The Bureau of Land Management is in charge of seven projects, representing an investment of \$870,000, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has two, totaling \$135,000.

Following is a description of the latest projects:

ALABAMA

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge

Forested areas in Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge, Choctaw County, will be thinned and reseeded by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to enhance their recreational and ecological values. This project, providing about four man-years of employment, is valued at \$35,000.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Similar work is planned by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Limestone County. It will involve an investment of \$100,000 and provide 10 man-years of employment.

Russell Cave National Monument

The National Park Service plans to construct fire trails, beautify roadside areas, and reforest parts of Russell Cave National Monument in Jackson County. The work is valued at \$54,000 and will require about seven man-years' labor.

CALIFORNIA

<u>Lassen</u>

Reseeding and related forest preservation work is planned by the Bureau of Land Management in Lassen County. This job will require five man-years of labor and an investment of \$50,000.

Siskiyou

Timbered areas in Siskiyou County will be thinned and reseeded, and snags will be removed, by the Bureau of Land Management. Approximately \$27,000 is to be invested in this project, which will provide three man-years of employment.

Trinity

A similar timber stand improvement is scheduled in Trinity County by the Bureau of Land Management. Work is also planned on the Brock Gulch Road. These activities, valued at \$101,000, will provide seven man-years of employment.

Tulare

The Bureau of Land Management has received approval, under the APW Act, for three road projects in Tulare County, near Visalia. They involve the Long Valley, Lamont Meadows, and Rockhouse roads. This work, valued at a total of \$552,000, will provide 32 man-years of employment.

Shasta

In Shasta County, near Redding, the Bureau of Land Management plans to surface Cinder Road. Three man-years of employment will be provided by a \$40,000 investment.

Tuolumne

Near Sonora, in Tuolumme County, the Bureau of Land Management plans work on Big Jack Creek Road and improvements to the timber stand. This activity, valued at \$100,000, will create seven man-years of employment.

Pinnacles National Monument

The National Park Service will construct a new loop trail in Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito County, valued at \$20,000. It will provide the equivalent of two man-years of employment.

Yosemite National Park

Campgrounds and forests in Yosemite National Park will be improved by the National Park Service as part of a \$150,000 project providing 17 man-years of employment. These funds will also finance soil and moisture conservation work in several areas.

Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park

The National Park Service plans to build boundary fencing, a patrol cabin, and a fire lookout tower in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. Drainage will be improved, timbered areas surveyed, and tree hazards removed. Approximately \$500,000 is to be invested in this project, which will provide 36 man-years of employment.

FLORIDA

Everglades National Park

In the Dade County area of Everglades National Park, the National Park Service plans to improve fire-protection facilities and eradicate undesirable trees. The work is valued at \$200,000 and will generate about 23 man-years of employment.

KENTUCKY

Cumberland Gap National Monument

In the Harlan and Bell County areas of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, the National Park Service plans to construct and improve forest trails and control erosion. The investment in these projects will total \$29,000. They will provide nine man-years of employment.

Mammoth Cave National Park

Timbered areas are scheduled to be replanted in Mammoth Cave National Park by the National Park Service, which also plans to clear several scenic vistas and improve campground areas. Seven man-years of employment will be generated by this activity, which represents an investment of \$64,000.

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